

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-19 remain in the case.

Claims 1-3, 7-13, 15, and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over van Ketwich, of record, in view SATO MICHIAKI ("SATO") JP 11-220523; claims 4, 5, and 19 stand rejected under Section 103(a) further on the patent to Armstrong, of record; and claims 16 and 17 stand rejected under Section 103(a) further on the patent to Zenk, of record. All three rejections are respectfully traversed, and applicant requests that they be withdrawn and this application immediately allowed.

The SATO publication does not qualify as prior art. SATO was published on August 10, 1999, a date subsequent to the Swedish priority date of March 12, 1999. Applicant has previously claimed priority of Swedish Application No. 9900908-6, filed in Sweden March 12, 1999, and the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office has acknowledged both this claim and receipt of the certified copy of the priority document. Furthermore, in the Reply of January 24, 2006, applicant submitted an English translation of this priority document to overcome the effective date of the Ishihara patent, then being cited against the same claims presently in the subject application. The record thus establishes that the effective date of the newly-cited SATO publication has also been overcome, and SATO must be withdrawn as a reference against the claims herein. See MPEP § 201.15. This is not to be construed as an admission that the SATO publication is relevant or that it makes obvious any claim herein, whether taken alone or in combination.

With SATO removed as a reference, claims 1-3, 7-13, 15, and 18 stand rejected under van Ketwich alone; claims 4, 5, and 19 under van Ketwich in view of Armstrong; and claims 16 and 17 under van Ketwich in view of Zenk, all of record. All three

rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons previously advanced and which are specifically incorporated by reference herein, including, but not limited to, in the Reply to Office Action of August 30, 2004, the Request for Reconsideration filed June 7, 2005, and the Reply to Office Action and Request for Reconsideration, filed January 24, 2006, and May 18, 2006. As understood, it was the inadequate teachings in these patents that caused the Examiner to search further and find the Ishihara patent, which was withdrawn, the Bisset patent, which was withdrawn, and now the SATO publication, which must also be withdrawn.

Applicant wishes to remind the Examiner of the telephonic interview of August 18, 2005 between the Examiner and the undersigned attorney. As understood, and as stated in the Response to Interview Summary filed September 26, 2005, the Examiner was to conduct another search of the prior art and would allow the claims if no prior art was found that was better than the art then of record. The Examiner in the Office Action of October 24, 2005 cited the Ishihara patent as the secondary reference to van Ketwich. In the Office Action of February 28, 2006, Ishihara was withdrawn, and Bisset was been newly cited as the secondary reference to van Ketwich. In the present Office Action of August 8, 2006, Bisset has been withdrawn and SATO newly cited as the secondary reference to van Ketwich. Yet, SATO is not prior art and must also be withdrawn.

In accordance with the very procedure established by the Examiner, this application ought now to be immediately allowed. This application was filed on November 5, 2001, and no claim has been amended since the Reply to Office Action dated August 30, 2004. All claims ought now to be allowed promptly with no further intrusion on the twenty-year term.

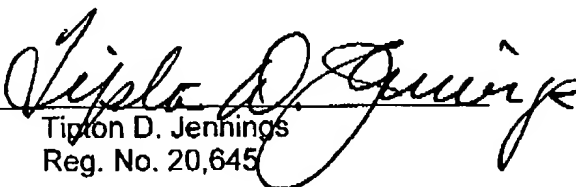
Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1-5, 7-13, and 15-19 are earnestly solicited.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this Reply and charge any required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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FARABOW, GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: November 8, 2006

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